



Town of Groton, Connecticut

Meeting Minutes

Town Council

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk 860-441-6640
Town Manager
860-441-6630

Mayor James L. Streeter, Councilors Bruce S. Flax, Bill Johnson, Catherine Kolnaski, Deborah B. Monteiro, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Deborah L. Peruzzotti, Paulann H. Sheets, and Harry A. Watson

Tuesday, June 15, 2010

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. by Mayor Streeter.

Members Present: Mayor Streeter, Councilor Johnson, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Peruzzotti, Councilor Sheets and Councilor Watson

Members Absent: Councilor Flax

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger and Office Assistant Lori Watrous.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Salute to the Flag was led by Tom Cataldi.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

2010-0128 Proclamation Recognizing the 50th Anniversary of the Groton Public Library

Read

The proclamation was read by Councilor Monteiro.

2010-0136 Proclamation Commemorating Flag Day - BPOE

Read

The proclamation was read by Councilor Johnson.

2010-0140 Proclamation Honoring Antonina Marie Williams

Read

The proclamation was read by Councilor Peruzzotti.

2010-0141 Proclamation Recognizing Ryan Anthony Homand

Read

The proclamation was read by Councilor Watson.

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Richard "Dick" Jordan, 312 Ridgewood Drive, Mystic, is concerned that the Cardiac Rehabilitation Program at the Senior Center is going to be eliminated. Mr. Jordan has had bypass surgery and this program helps him to maintain his health and well-being. He stated that he would like to see the program continue, even if it means increased fees for members.

Barbara Hamanaka, 40 Eagle Ridge Drive, Gales Ferry, is in support of the Cardiac Rehabilitation Program remaining as it is. However, if changes are to be made she would like to see the program continue until they are implemented.

Alicia Bauer, 374 Meridian Street Extension, an RTM member, noted that a single person is less likely to exercise properly or may not exercise at all. She stated that the Cardiac Rehabilitation Program is vital to the community, and those who participate would be willing to work toward a solution to keep this vital program.

Judy Malchik, 30 Salem Ridge Drive North, Salem, is a registered nurse who helps with the Cardiac Rehabilitation Program. She stated that in January she was contacted regarding combining groups, and in May she was informed that the program would be cut entirely. She believes that seniors are extremely valuable to the community and that the program should not be eliminated.

Lorraine Raimonde, Niantic, has worked as a certified exercise instructor with seniors for the last ten years. She stated that members of the group work very hard and the exercise is both physically and psychologically rewarding. Ms. Raimonde remarked that heart disease is the number one killer, and it would be beneficial to keep the program going.

Tom Cataldi, 87 Chestnut Hill Road, remarked that at the suggestion of the nurses at the Cardiac Rehabilitation Program, he went to the hospital in time to prevent a stroke. He is very grateful to those who staff the program and would like to see it continue.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

In answer to Councilor Monteiro's inquiry it was noted there are twenty-two active members of the Cardiac Rehabilitation Program; five nurses rotate duties to staff the program; the monthly fee is \$63.

The Town Manager was under the impression that the Cardiac Rehabilitation Program was going to be restructured, but he will contact the Director of Parks and Recreation to obtain specific information and report his findings to the Council.

Rather than terminate the program, Councilors would like to have the program continue during any transitional period while adjustments are made or a reasonable alternative is found.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes

2010-0138 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of June 1, 2010 are hereby accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

b. Administrative Items

2010-0130 Special Trust Fund Contributions

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:
Eurocars - \$30.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Stepping Stones - \$100.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2009-0248 FYE 2011 Budget

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2009-0314 Freedom of Information Act Presentation

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2010-0106 October 2011 Revaluation

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2010-0119 Miscellaneous and Ad Hoc Committee Appointments

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2010-0131 Acceptance of Heartwell Drive

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2010-0132 Groton Long Point Police Budget - Request for Supplemental Appropriation

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2010-0135 River Road Repairs

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2010-0137 Appointment of Lenore White to the Library Board

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2010-0139 Authorization to Conduct a Town-Wide Police Assessment

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2010-0143 Establishment of Thames Street Review Committee

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

Passed The Consent Calendar

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, to adopt the Consent Calendar, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Calendar.

The motion carried unanimously

VII. COMMUNICATION REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)**a. Town Councilors**

Councilors received communications regarding the Groton Long Point Police Department budget issue.

Councilor Kolnaski attended the Fitch Senior High School Senior Awards and Scholarship Ceremony and a Ledge Light Health District meeting.

Councilors Kolnaski, Watson, Peruzzotti, and Johnson attended a Phase II School Design Committee meeting.

Councilor Monteiro received an email regarding the blight ordinance.

Councilor Peruzzotti attended the Mystic Mobility Study meeting.

Councilor Johnson received a communication from a citizen regarding a proposed horse-crossing on Groton Long Point Road that would be part of the bike trail through the Mortimer Wright Preserve property. Councilor Johnson attended a Golf Advisory Board meeting.

Mayor Streeter received an email regarding welcome signs for submarines coming into port. He attended a Thames Street Advisory Committee meeting, a Mystic Chamber of Commerce meeting, a meeting with Mayor Popp, a meeting with the Town Manager and representatives of Electric Boat, a DARE graduation, a "ribbon-cutting" for the Electric Boat Pharmacy, and an Eastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce meeting. He also delivered a presentation on Groton landmarks. The Mayor read proclamations for Eagle Scout, Flag Day, and Gold Award ceremonies. He informed the public that services for Former Town Historian Carol Kimball will be on June 19, 2010.

b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

Office Assistant Lori Watrous noted that the regular meeting of the RTM scheduled for June 16,

2010, has been cancelled.

c. Clerk of the Council

Ms. Watrous reminded citizens that dog licenses need to be renewed in June and can be done either through the mail or at the Town Clerk's Office.

d. Town Manager

The Town Manager remarked that a Mystic Streetscape public information meeting will be held on June 17, 2010. He noted that the regularly scheduled meetings of Group I, Group II, and the Committee of the Whole for June 22, 2010, have been cancelled. Mr. Oefinger stated that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) extended the timeframe of the Disaster Recovery Center at the Senior Center to July 2, 2010. The Town Manager received a letter from the Groton Long Point Association President Bob Congdon regarding funding of a CIP project. He informed citizens that the State decision whether to continue the current conveyance tax rate will be made on June 21, 2010, and encouraged citizens to contact their legislators. The Town Manager noted that Town employees Nancy Dytko, Linda Stankewich, and Paul Duarte will be retiring at the end of June.

e. Town Attorney

No report.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman Peruzzotti

No meeting, no report.

b. Economic Development - Chairman Johnson

No meeting, no report.

c. Education/Health & Social Services - Chairman Kolnaski

No meeting, no report.

d. Environment/Energy - Chairman Sheets

No meeting, no report.

e. Finance - Chairman O'Beirne

No meeting, no report.

f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules - Chairman Flax

Councilor Peruzzotti read the minutes of the meeting held on June 8, 2010, which are on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

g. Public Safety - Chairman Monteiro

No meeting, no report.

h. Public Works/Recreation - Chairman Watson

No meeting, no report.

i. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Streeter

Mayor Streeter stated that the resolutions on tonight's agenda are a result of the last regular Committee of the Whole meeting. He noted that a special Committee of the Whole was held on June 14, 2010, with the Phase II School Design Committee and the Board of Education.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

X. NEW BUSINESS

2010-0119 Miscellaneous and Ad Hoc Committee Appointments

COMMITTEES

WHEREAS, the Town Council makes appointments to miscellaneous and ad hoc local and regional committees as well as appointing liaisons to other groups, and

WHEREAS, upon its election every two years the Town Council should reconsider these appointments, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the following individuals are appointed to the groups as noted:

Pequot Woods Board of Trustees - Councilor Frank O'Beirne
Golf Advisory Board - Councilor William Johnson (ex-officio, non-voting)
School Design Committee - Councilor Catherine Kolnaski, John Scott (former Town Councilor)
Parks and Recreation Master Plan Implementation Advisory Committee - Councilor Deborah Monteiro
Economic Development Commission Liaison - Councilors William Johnson and Deborah Peruzzotti
Town Council/RTM/Board of Education Liaison Committee - Councilors Catherine Kolnaski, Harry Watson, and Bruce Flax
Groton Community Boating Club Advisory Board Liaison - Councilor Paulann Sheets
Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority Representative Advisory Board - Councilor Paulann Sheets and Resident Mary Lou Smith (both currently serving terms that expire 9/1/11)
New London Ledge Lighthouse Board of Directors - Councilor Deborah Monteiro
Mystic Cooperative Task Force - Mayor James Streeter
Southeastern Connecticut Councilor of Governments - Mayor James Streeter and Town Manager Mark Oefinger
Long Island Sound Assembly - Councilor Harry Watson

A motion was made by Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2010-0131

Acceptance of Heartwell Drive

ACCEPTANCE OF HEARTWELL DRIVE

WHEREAS, the Copp Subdivision was approved on June 28, 2005, and

WHEREAS, on January 12, 2010 the Planning Commission recommended acceptance of a 320 linear foot road known as Heartwell Drive along with associated public improvements, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts Heartwell Drive as a Town street.

A motion was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Monteiro, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2010-0132

Groton Long Point Police Budget - Request for Supplemental Appropriation

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION FOR THE GROTON LONG POINT POLICE DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, during its deliberations on the FYE 2011 budget the Representative Town Meeting voted to reduce Groton Long Point's police budget by \$208,000, and

WHEREAS, the Groton Long Point Board subsequently voted to reduce its public safety budget by \$80,000 and pay the remaining \$128,000 through an increase in the district's mill rate, and

WHEREAS, prior to this decision, the president of the Groton Long Point Board had requested a supplemental appropriation from the Town of Groton in the amount of \$128,000, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council has authorized a Town-wide police assessment in an effort to bring Groton Long Point, City of Groton, and Town of Groton representatives to the table to discuss police services, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council felt that Groton Long Point's request for a supplemental appropriation should be addressed separately from the Town-wide police assessment, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that a transfer of \$128,000 be made from the FYE 2011 General Fund's Contingency account (#10741-5499) to the Groton Long Point's police account (#10910-5230).

Refer to RTM.

Discussed

MOTION was made by Councilor Monteiro, seconded by Councilor O'Beirne, that this matter be adopted.

Councilor Peruzzotti will not support this resolution because she feels that the Council should support the RTM's decision. She does think that a Town-wide police assessment should be conducted.

Councilor O'Beirne and Councilor Johnson will support the resolution, as they feel that it is a matter of fairness to Groton Long Point residents.

Councilor Sheets stated that a Town-wide police assessment should be completed because the well-being of the community should not be put at risk.

Councilor Kolnaski remarked that members of the RTM are very upset by this resolution and she does not believe it will pass once it is referred to the RTM. She would like to postpone any action until there is a chance to communicate with both Groton Long Point and the RTM.

MOTION TO POSTPONE to a later date was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Monteiro.

Councilor O'Beirne raised a "Point of Order" stating that he does not think that this is a proper motion.

Mayor Streeter called a brief recess at 8:45 p.m. to verify whether this motion can be made, and the meeting reconvened at 8:48 p.m.

Councilor Kolnaski offered to make a motion to table rather than postpone if that is preferable.

A motion was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Monteiro, that this matter be Tabled.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: In Favor: 5 - Mayor Streeter, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor Peruzzotti and Councilor Sheets

Opposed: 3 - Councilor Johnson, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr. and Councilor Watson

2010-0135

River Road Repairs

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION FOR THE PERMITTING AND DESIGN OF REPAIRS TO RIVER ROAD

dead-ending the road for vehicular traffic, and

WHEREAS, no funds are currently appropriated to permit, design and repair the road, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Works has estimated the cost of permitting and design work at \$75,000, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that a supplemental appropriation of \$75,000 be appropriated from the Capital Reserve Fund Balance as a FYE 2011 road project.

A motion was made by Councilor Sheets, seconded by Councilor Watson, that this matter be Adopted and Referred to the Representative Town Meeting.

The motion carried unanimously

2010-0137 Appointment of Lenore White to the Library Board

RESOLUTION APPOINTING LENORE WHITE TO THE LIBRARY BOARD

RESOLVED, that Lenore White, 76 Brook Street, is appointed to the Library Board for a term ending 12/31/11.

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Sheets, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2010-0139 Authorization to Conduct a Town-Wide Police Assessment

AUTHORIZATION TO CONDUCT A TOWN-WIDE POLICE ASSESSMENT

WHEREAS, the Town Council has discussed the merits of a Town-wide police assessment on numerous occasions over the years, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council invites representatives from Groton Long Point and the City of Groton to meet, discuss, and develop a scope of services for a Town-wide police assessment, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes the Town Manager to issue a request for qualifications which incorporates the agreed upon scope of services and to obtain consultant qualifications for a Town-wide police assessment utilizing funds previously encumbered for management studies.

A motion was made by Councilor Peruzzotti, seconded by Councilor Johnson, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2010-0143 Establishment of Thames Street Review Committee

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A THAMES STREET REVIEW COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, a November 2009 referendum on a Thames Street Rehabilitation Project was turned down by Groton voters, and

WHEREAS, the Town and City have met on numerous occasions to discuss how best to move forward on the rehabilitation of Thames Street, and

WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to have a broad-based committee identify why the November 2009 referendum failed; identify potential cost-saving measures/phasing schemes and/or alternatives for the project; and make a recommendation on Thames Street rehabilitation for the Town Council to consider, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that a Thames Street Review Committee is established and representatives appointed as follows:

Town Council	-	Councilor Deborah Monteiro Mayor James Streeter
City Council	-	Deputy Mayor Marian Galbraith Councilor Keith Hedrick
Thames Street Committee	-	Hali Keeler Robin Hoffman
RTM	-	Mark Svencer Nancy Beckwith Joan Steinfeld Carole McCarthy

and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Committee be supported by appropriate Town and City staff and that the Committee report back to the Town Council with their recommendations within 60 days of the Committee's initial meeting.

A motion was made by Councilor Johnson, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 9:00 p.m. was made by Councilor Monteiro, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council*

Lori Watrous, Office Assistant